

Montana Shared Catalog Consortium Update

Fall 2022

GovDelivery

The MSC team will soon start using GovDelivery to share System Updates and scheduled/unexpected interruption-of-service notices with the membership. The transition timeline is to be determined; however, you can subscribe to the MSC's GovDelivery channel any time at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MTLIBRARY/subscriber/new>

Once you submit your email address, you'll see a list of subscription topics. To subscribe to the MSC, check the box next to Montana Shared Catalog, which appears under the Library Services topic.

Spring Members Meeting

This year's Spring Members Meeting will be held both in person (Billings) and online at the start of the MLA conference. The meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, from 1:00pm-4:00pm at the Double Tree in Billings. If you plan to attend only the members meeting, you do not need to register for MLA; however, you must register for MLA if you plan to attend conference sessions in addition to the members meeting. Agenda and meeting link to follow.

New Partners Libraries

Two additional libraries have joined the Partners Sharing Group: Great Falls Public Library and Meagher County/City Library in White Sulphur Springs. Meagher County is already live in Partners, as of December 23. Great Falls will go live in Partners on February 1. These libraries will add an additional 145,000+ items to the MSC's largest sharing group.

HTML Notices

After testing the new HTML Email Notices for the past few months, we're ready to go live and have more libraries switch to the new notices format. While only for email notifications, these notices will function the same way that your current notices do; however, with a much-improved design and format for your patrons. You can also add URLs to link patrons to your website, catalog, or social media sites. Interested in being next? Open a ticket today with the subject line 'HTML notices.'

Mobile App - Linked Accounts

Mobile App users who have setup linked accounts in the app, will now see those accounts retained after log out. Previously when a user was logged out of the mobile app, linked accounts were lost. An enhancement has enabled us to configure the app to now maintain those links.

Mobile Hotspots – Cataloging

The MSC team and the CMC are assessing current cataloging procedures for mobile hotspots. [Current procedure](#) is to use one generic mobile hotspot record for single hotspots. This one record approach has allowed for efficient processing and getting hotspots quickly in the hands of our library patrons. However, this one record approach has not allowed us to distinguish between Verizon and T-Mobile hotspots or identify filtered hotspots. Workarounds have introduced issues with placing holds in Enterprise. We are in the process of testing new records and drafting new guidance on assigning call numbers.

MSL Statistical Dashboards

Did you know the MSL website has multiple dashboards that may be of use to MSC members and their stakeholders? You can see the main dashboard page at <https://msl.mt.gov/about/publications/statistics/>. Examples described and linked below.

MSL Programs - These are highlights from select MSL programs for the current fiscal year (July 1-June 30). The dashboard is updated monthly. The MSC dashboard gives a birds-eye view of the consortium, including sharing group activity and a transit map. Charts display the total number of items in the consortium broken down by type, support case categories, circulation figures, and total MSC users. <https://bit.ly/fy23mscdashboard>

MSC Online Catalog - This dashboard provides a daily update of online catalog activity. The dashboard is updated each day around 12am. Data can be filtered by library and year. Click on the Catalog Search Trends to see top search terms for the current and past months. <https://bit.ly/msccatalogdashboard>

Public Libraries Survey - This dashboard includes Montana's compiled data for the Public Libraries Survey. It is updated annually. Data for 2022 is being processed and will be added soon. Federal data for 2020 will be added at the same time. <https://bit.ly/montanaplsdashboard>

MSC Sessions at MLA

The 2023 Montana Library Association (MLA) annual conference will be held April 12-15, 2023, at the Double Tree in Billings.

Spring Members Meeting

Wednesday, April 12, 2023, 1:00pm-4:00pm. See **Spring Members Meeting** section above.

Serial and Series Records in the Wild: How to Spot and Catalog Them in the MSC

Thursday, April 13, 2023, 3:30pm-5:00pm (90 minutes)

If you're overwhelmed looking at the MSC's instructions for cataloging serial, series, and multi-part works -- and knowing when to apply a call # analytic! -- join us! This session is intended primarily for catalogers in the MSC; however, all who are puzzled by these types of materials are welcome.

Wrangling the Wild West of Hot Spot Cataloging in the MSC

Friday, April 14, 2023, 8:30am-9:30am (60 minutes)

The Montana State Library Hot Spot Lending Program expanded patron access to the internet via hot spots, both in and out of the Montana Shared Catalog (MSC); however, it's presented cataloging challenges for staff. Come learn the MSC recommendations for cataloging hot spots to best support patron discovery and circulation.

Original Cataloging

The MSC team is trialing creating original bibliographic records when no record exists in the OCLC database. We will catalog materials in OCLC so that your library can import the records in using SmartPort. Original cataloging requests should be submitted through the ticket system following directions provided in a new [KB article](#). Please understand that although we are pleased to offer original cataloging to members, we will be limited in in the number of records we can produce. We encourage members to continue working with [MSC Mentors](#) and colleagues for assistance as well.